Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00180 270732Z

17
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 SS-15 /035 W
---------- 044104
P 261500Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9488

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 180

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT

REF: A) STATE 017916, B) STATE 289641

1. WE RECEIVED THE DEPARTMENT'S NEW INSTRUCTIONS (REF A) WITH CONSTERNATION.

2. SINCE WE TAKE THE POLICY ASSESSMENT SERIOUSLY, AND BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME ISSUES THAT NEED AIRING AND EXAMINATION, WE BEGAN WORK ON IT SOME TIME AGO (ON THE BASIS OF REFTEL B), AND NOW HAVE OUR ASSESSMENT IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION.

3. REFTEL A (WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE IF ANYTHING IN COMMON WITH REFTEL B) WOULD REQUIRE US TO BEGIN OVER. IT WAS RECEIVED ON MONDAY WITH OUR DEADLINE ON FRIDAY.

4. SOME OF THE PORTIONS OF THE REFTEL WORRY US BE-CAUSE THEY SEEM SPECIALIZED OR PERIPHERAL. SOME OF THEM SEEM LIKE INR QUESTIONS WHICH ARE PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE IN THEIR PLACE, BUT ARE NOT CLOSE TO HEART OF OUR ASSESSMENT OF US POLICY TOWARDS CZECHOSLOVAKIA. (TO CITE ONE EXAMPLE, THE CZECH VIEW OF THE "YUGOSLAV SITUATION," NO MATTER HOW INTERESTING OR EVEN IMPORTANT, IS NOT A MAJOR ELEMENT RIGHT NOW IN THE DETERMINATION OF US POLICY TOWARDS CZECHOSLOVAKIA.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00180 270732Z

5. THERE IS A LARGER QUESTION AT ISSUE HERE, HOW-

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

EVER. WE KNOW EUR IS MAKING A SERIOUS NEW EFFORT
TO MAKE THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS MEANINGFUL IN
DETERMINING POLICY, AND THIS EMBASSY
SUPPORTS THAT EFFORT FULLY. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED
FOR ORGANIZATION AND CONFORMITY IN RUNNING ASSESSMENTS
FOR THE SCORES OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED, WE FEEL THAT
THE REFTEL PRESSES US INTO A PREDETERMINED FRAME-
WORK. IT IS ANCIENT WISDOM IN DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE
TO GET NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON YOUR DRAFT RATHER THAN
THE OTHER'S SIDE. IF ALL THE POSTS USE YOUR OUTLINE,
AS IN REFTEL, AS BASIS FOR THEIR ASSESSMENTS, IT
SEEMS TO US THAT EUR IS COOKING THE POLICY ANSWERS BEFORE
IT EVER GETS THE INGREDIENTS FROM THE FIELD.

6. IN SUM, WE FEEL THAT TO GO OVER TO THE DEPART-
MENT'S CABLE AS THE BASIS FOR OUR ASSESSMENT WILL
INHIBIT OUR EXPRESION OF VIEWS AND MAKE THE ASSESS-
MENT ON ACADEMIC EXERCISE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IF THE DEPARTMENT ALLOWS US,
WE PREFER TO SUBMIT OUR OWN POLICY ASSESSMENT

ACCORDING TO THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULE. IF THE
DEPARTMENT PREFERS US TO FOLLOW ITS OUTLINE,
WE WILL DISCARD OUR PRESENT WORK AND BEGIN
AGAIN, BUT IN THAT CASE WE REQUEST AN EXTENSION
OF TWO WEEKS (FEBRUARY 14) TO DO OUR NEW
ASSESSMENT PROPERLY.
PERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INSTRUCTIONS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRAGUE00180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760030-0532
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760121/aaaaasiw.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 17916, 76 STATE 289641
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANNUAL POLICY ASSESSMENT
TAGS: PFOR, CZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006